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23 April 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: MR. BISSILL


SUBJECT : Blow-outs in U-2 Aircraft

1. Attached is a tabulation which indicates the blow-outs experienced in U-2 aircraft from the time we started flying them to 31 March this year. This tabulation is fairly self-explanatory and includes the cause of blow-outs if known.

2. On Aircraft 1 and 4, number of blow-outs is fairly high probably because these were test aircraft in which blow-outs were induced. It is interesting to note that while the number of blow-outs experienced in these two aircraft is fairly high, the rate of blow-outs is approximated by at least two other aircraft.

3. This memorandum is furnished for your information only. It does seem, however, to offer a note of alarm in that if the average rate of blow-outs of one in seven is experienced in actual operations, we can expect arithmetically at least one blow-out per week if we fly at our planned rate of eight sorties per week.

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Colonel, USAF
Director of Operations

Attachment (1):
Tabulation

AMW/aem

Dist.:

Orig. & cy - addressee w/1 cy attmt.
Cy #3 - Ops subj. file
Cy #4 - Admin chrono
Cy #5 - Ops chrono

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